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## The Yellow Rose of Texas





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## About The Yellow Rose of Texas

The men who rode the western plains of the United States in the nineteenth century as cowboys were rugged and hardy people who had to work very hard and live a great deal of their life on the back of a horse. Much of their life was made up of monotonous drudgery, so a very popular pastime was singing while they worked. The cowboys sang to pass the time, they sang to calm the horses, and they sang to entertain each other. They sang about happy times, lost loves, and their personal hardships.

The Yellow Rose of Texas was written as a minstrel tune after the Texas war for independence. It was a popular Confederate marching song during the Civil War and later with the U.S. Cavalry on the western frontier and along the cattle trails.

## About Michael Pratt

**Michael Pratt** studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan. He has taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham, Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, and since 1981 with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra.